



Attorney Reference: HOE96/318US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(3259.81131)

Applicant: Fritz Schwertfeger Paper No: 6
U.S.S.N: 09/308,770 Group Art Unit: 1762
Filed: October 28, 1999 Examiner: Crockford, K.
Title: Method for Producing Organically Modified, Permanently Hydrophobic Aerogels

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action (Paper No. 5) mailed on February 15, 2000 in the above-captioned patent application.

A Notice of Change of Mailing Address is filed together with this Response to the outstanding Office Action.

In the Claims

Please enter the following amendments to the claims.

Claim 1. (Amended) A process [Process] for the preparation of organically modified aerogels with permanently hydrophobic surface groups [in which one] , comprising:

- a. introducing [introduces] a lyogel into [the] a reactor;
- b. washing [washes] the lyogel introduced into the reactor in step a) with an organic solvent;
- c. surface-silylating the lyogel [surface-silylates the gel] obtained in step b) with a silylating agent to produce a surface-silylated lyogel and
- d. drying [dries] the surface-silylating lyogel [gel] obtained in step c),